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Division
of
Psychological Studies

September 11, 1973

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Palo Alto, CA

Dear Josh:

After leaving Berkeley, I went to Montreal for a week for the meetings of the American Psychologists Association and in the period since I have been back in Princeton there has been much to catch up with. It is for this reason that I have only just now been able to read your paper on "Genetics of Human Nature".

It is not to be taken at all as a sign of the care with which I read it--I did read it with great care--that I have no critical comments to make. If my own reaction is at all predictive, the paper should have a real impact on its audience and they should learn an enormous amount from it. In this connection, let me say that stimulated by your prefatory statement, I tried to read it from the vantage point of its readers-to-be. Of course I am not a sociologist, and being married to a geneticist, which in turn brings me into some contact with biology and biologists, I am perhaps a bit less naive about biology. Yet, I think I share sufficiently the same ball park with sociologists to be able to adopt their perspective without too much difficulty. Viewed from that perspective, I think you have done a really good job and, in any case, as a psychologist, I got a great deal out of your article. It is chock-full of information and, in the space it takes, raises an enormous number of significant issues. I really think you have done a service for sociologists in what you bring to them in this piece. It is just a pity that you could not take a book to say it in.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg

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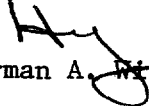
After looking, I find that I do not have reprints or references on political attitudes of people in different disciplines but I will keep trying.

I appreciated the opportunity to discuss our XYY study. By the way, since we met, we have found another XYY who also has a criminal record and is a draft board rejectee. Tomorrow we are having a telephone conference with our Danish collaborator to make a final decision on the control group. Since you are down in our grant as a consultant, as you know, I hope you will not mind if I send you a consultation fee.

It was great for both of us to see Marguerite and you but we are sorry to have missed seeing David. We really hope that there will be an opportunity to repay your hospitality some time soon in Princeton.

Warmest regards from the two of us to the three of you.

Cordially,


Herman A. Witkin

HAW:pet
Enclosure

P.S. I am enclosing a recent piece I did which, because of your unbelievably vast interest, may fall within your intellectual universe.